Question from a member:

As a Foundation Governor at a CofE Primary School our Board is considering how best to plan for the requirements of RSE (Relationship Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education).

For a subject of such importance for people of all persuasions, we are acutely conscious of the importance of getting it right.

As an Anglican School the matter is complicated as the publication of the General Synod's Report and Debate on Same Sex Marriage has been postponed and the Lambeth Conference discussion has been rescheduled for next year.

How is the Centre currently assisting Schools/Chaplains in this area or what plans do you have to support it?

Any thoughts you have would be greatly appreciated, as would any advice on parental consultations, policy-making or classroom resources.

CCE’s answer:

I have sounded out some of my colleagues as this is not our focus but obviously supporting you is!

A helpful port of call would be your Diocesan team, although we recognise that many of them have been/are furloughed during this time. However contacting them would be useful.

The most useful set of national resources is that produced by the Education team at Church House, which can be easily accessed at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/relationships-sex-and-health-education> Among the resources is material dealing with parental consultations and the related issues - we would also encourage schools to be in touch with others in the diocesan family that are the early adopters: those schools which decided to begin their implementation process at the start of this academic year 2019-20, as permitted by the legislation. They may well have useful insights and experience to offer.

Again at a national level, there is also a suite of resources around the Report 'Valuing All God's Children', which schools have found to be extremely helpful and which can be freely downloaded from among our publications, the main listing for which is at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools/education-publications>. It is less specifically targeted at the new RSE requirements, since these had not emerged when it was written, but are referenced within and highly relevant to the new provisions.

Additionally, Stonewall produce some excellent material around LGBTQ+ and are worth looking at. Certainly the Church School I worked in used their material.

I hope this begins to support you in your work and whilst we do not have plans to develop work in this area, we are always happy to promote excellent resources and we will bear this area in mind as we begin to develop our website over the coming weeks.